

*BRITISH FORCES JOINED.*

FROM LADYSMITH.

-FIRST ATTACK ON FREE STATE DE-  
TACHMENT-HARD FIGHTING EX-  
PECTED -- WHITE'S  
REPORT.

General Yule has performed a brilliant strategical movement. By a swift march to the south, leaving Glencoe empty, he has effected junction of his forces with those of Sir George Stewart White, slightly to the north of Ladysmith.

The two are now in a position to offer battle. I believe the first attack will be made on the large Free State force which entered Natal by way of Tintwa Pass, and which has since been harassing Ladysmith. The military authorities decided that by joining their forces the two generals would be better able to cope with a large force at a time than by having two small detachments to oppose simultaneously two

Accordingly, after defeating the Free State troops, they will offer battle to Commandant General Leuchowicz. Only forty miles now separate them from the British.

the two Boer forces. Hence the need for swift and telling action.

**SEVERE FIGHTING PROBABLE.**

The two sections of the Boer army together outnumber the entire British force by three to one. Hard fighting is certain at a very early date. Our men are confident, and there is much enthusiasm.

The fighting to-day outside Ladysmith was mere brush. The losses on neither side were significant. It was merely an artillery duel, which the Boers came off decidedly the worse.

The following despatch from General

George Stewart White to the Marquis of Londondowne, Secretary of State for War, received last evening at 11 o'clock, was posted at the War Office soon after midnight:

Ladysmith, October 24, 9 p.m.

Information received yesterday showed that the Boers had established themselves in considerable numbers in an exceedingly strong position west of the main road leading from Ladysmith.

I also had information that the Dundee fort was formerly commanded by General Symons, a brave officer, who was wounded, and was afterwards commanded by General V.

was fought back on Ladysmith by way of Helpmarr Road, Beith and the valleys of Waschbank and Sunday rivers, and was expected to reach Sunday River Valley to-day.

**BOER GUN SILENCED.**

I therefor moved out with a strong force over the movement of Yule's column. My enemy was discovered about seven miles out. Ladysmith in a position of exceptional natural strength, west of the road. When he saw the preparations were being made against him, opened fire with one gun with great accuracy. Our artillery soon got into position, and the gun was silenced. Our troops were ordered to occupy a strong ridge parallel to the enemy's position, but nearer to the road.

I confined my efforts to occupying him and hitting him hard enough to prevent his taking

action against Yule's column. Numbers of enemy fled to the west, and the firing had practically ceased at 2 o'clock.

**LACK OF OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION**

Although there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the dispatch from Cape Town

"The Daily Mail" regarding General Yu's movement, it is curious that General Whelan's telegram to the War Office is dated at 9 p. m. but makes no mention of a joining of forces.

When the War Office dispatch was issued just after midnight, the officials announced that nothing more would be communicated on Wednesday forenoon, so that it is impossible to confirm or deny the news. General Yule had a heavy march on Monday over the Straits Slopes and the Zurfontein Table, both over a thousand feet high, and arrived after dusk at Beth, which is half way between Rorke's Drift and Wasebbank. He had still a heavy march and was hardly expected to join General Buller at Ladysmith until to-day.

His movements were actuated by sound judgment, since he soon would have been surrounded by the Boers. The same was true of the

and in a desperate position. The combined forces at Ladysmith, now amounting to twelve thousand men, will be amply sufficient to act on the defensive. A few more victories like Glencoe and Elandsbaagte would leave British troops without officers.

ENGLISH LOSSES HEAVY.

While the Boers have failed to take advantage of their strategic position, owing to the treachery of the British commander, the English have suffered a severe defeat. The Boers have killed 1,000 men, and taken 1,000 prisoners. The English have lost 1,000 men, and taken 1,000 prisoners.

It would have been better to have concentrated on Ladysmith in the first instance, but General White and General Symons had

yield to pitiful expenses and the possibility of being  
reluctance to abandon an inch of territory more  
than was necessary.

It is not expected that the wounded left  
Dundee will suffer inconvenience, except in in-  
giving prisoners of war.

The news of unrest in Basutoland causes much  
anxiety.

The correspondents who were taken prisoner  
in the train at Elandsbaagte have since escaped.  
They report that they were well treated by the  
Boers, and that in collecting and assisting  
the wounded Boers and British seem to have  
been mutually helpful.

At Cape Town it is proposed to raise a C  
Irregular force.

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**BALFOUR APPEALS FOR SUPPORT.**  
London, Oct. 24.—Arthur J. Balfour, First L  
of the Government, leader in the

House of Commons, writing to the Conservative candidate for Parliament in Bow, makes perfectly clear that the Government asks support of the electorate at the present juncture on patriotic grounds. He says:

On questions of legislation much might on more fitting occasion be said, but all subjects of merely domestic interest are dwarfed by stirring events in South Africa.

There we find our troops, both British and Colonial, from the necessities of the case divided and isolated, and, for the moment greatly

